(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take so as to ensure that our agro food processing industry further improve its functioning and pays more attention to hygiene keeping along with high International standards for quality; and

(c) what action is contemplated against companies found defaulters, in such violation cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, the Government is aware of the need to harmonize domestic standards with International standards to ensure food quality to safeguard human health.

(b) The Agro food processing Industries are required to comply with provisions of the Prevention of FoodAdulteration Act, the Fruit Products Order, the Milk and Milk Products Orders, the Meat Products Order, the Weights and Measures Order as relevant. To ensure that the Hygiene and food quality of food products is maintained at appropriate standards, the provisions and stipulations of these Orders and Rules are continuously monitored and amended from time to time as required.

(c) Companies which are in default or in violation of any of the provisions of the Acts and Orders mentioned in answer to (b) part of this Question are prosecuted as per the provisions of the relevant Act/ Order.

Production of Flowers

2328. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to increase the production of flowers;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in Orissa and the eastern State in the development of Floriculture;

(c) whether Government are exporting flowers; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken on that regard in Eighth Plan and target set for Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.RB.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b)Yes Sir. Government of India is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme for the development of

Commercial floriculture throughout India. The major components of the scheme are:

(i) Setting up of Model Floriculture Centres

(ii) Area expansion

(iii) Training

(iv) Demonstration plots

(v) Green houses and shade nets

(vi) Nurseries

The scheme is being implemented in all the Eastern states including Orissa. In the eastern states, during VIII plan period one Model Floriculture Centre each in West Bengal and Sikkim was allocated and during IX plan period one Model Floriculture Centre each in Orissa, Bihar and Nagaland has been allocated. .

(c) and (d) No Sir. The Government is not exporting flowers. However Government is promoting export of flowers by private sector, cooperatives and others through its schemes for the production of quality flowers, setting up of cargo handling and cold storage facilities at New Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Trivandrum airports for handling of flowers, setting up of wholesale cum market auction centre for flowers and assistance to exporters of floriculture products for various promotional activities such as market development, brand publicity, quality control and packaging development.

The export of flowers during the Eighth Plan (1992—97) was of the order of Rs. 188.12 crore and during the Ninth Plan (1997—2002) till November 2000 is of the order of Rs. 234.43 crore. No specific target for the export of flowers during the Ninth Plan has been setup.

Mushroom Cultivation

2329. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to increase mushroom cultivation in some States;

(b) whether Central assistance hasten given to the State Governments for the purpose; and